

Althea Gibson Foundation
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April 28, 1999

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Executive Director

Drs. William and Camille Cosby

President & CEO
c/o Kaufman Astoria Studios
34-12 36th Street
Astoria, NY 11106

Drs. William and Camille Cosby:

The Althea Gibson Foundation Board of Directors is pleased to announce your selection as recipients of the inaugural Althea Gibson Humanitarian Philanthropic Award.

The Board decided unanimously in your favor because of your well-documented humanitarian and philanthropic efforts to provide financial and in-kind assistance to countless worthy causes in the United States of America and beyond.

Additionally, the pioneering work of Dr. Cosby, in the fields of network television programming, sound recording and film making have contributed to help people develop a greater sense of altruism. Dr. Cosby's enormous contributions in the field of entertainment have helped raise the bar with respect to setting a new standard of "integrity in-performance".

Another key element in your selection is the fact that your love for the game of tennis is well-known and you have both been actively involved in supporting fundraising events associated with the game.

As you are well aware, Althea Gibson remains the sole African American female tennis professional to hold the Wimbledon and U.S. Open Championship titles. Moreover, Ms. Gibson is the only female athlete ever to win both titles in consecutive years. 1957 and 1958. She is a pioneer and a trailblazer. She has opened the doors of opportunity for women and African Americans in the field of professional tennis, in professional sports and beyond.

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Your outstanding professional example has helped open the doors of opportunity and has inspired many deserving individuals of all stripes and persuasions to pursue their dreams and to make them a reality.

The Althea Gibson Foundation was founded for the primary purpose of identifying, encouraging, and providing financial support for urban youth wishing to develop their skills and talents in the sports of tennis and golf, and have decided to pursue a career at the post-secondary level. The Foundation also exists to mentor urban youth and perpetuate the legacy of the Great American Champion, Althea Gibson.

The Board of Directors of the Althea Gibson Foundation would be extremely honored if you both would favor our request to personally accept the first Althea Gibson Humanitarian Philanthropic Award, by attending the award ceremony scheduled for Sunday, August 29th from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, New Jersey.

Sincerely,

Frances Clayton-Gray
Executive Director

Sharpe James
Mayor, City of Newark

David N. Dinkins

FCG/jcf